

emphasis with this bill. They have committed to taking on Omaha first as the other bill had done. What this again does is seven people will move over in July, three in September, and the whole operation will be taken over by November 1, October, so it's a process. The other thing in working the numbers, and we were very conservative in that, there will be a savings of almost \$10,000 in terms of that. That is a very, very conservative figure. We could have utilized more federal dollars and had less of a savings. But I think it's important and with that I would ask that you advance this or adopt this amendment and the compromise. And I appreciate very much the work with Senator Hillman, Senator Schimek, Senator Landis had played a key part and everybody that has come together and supported this piece of legislation throughout. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, rise to express my final thoughts on this bill, and I will be supporting the amendment. I did support the return to Select File, but I, too, will not be supporting the bill. And I do feel that the people have worked together and, Senator Avery, I appreciate the way that you have been willing to work on this. But I just don't happen to support the concept of what we're doing here. I do think that, as a note of caution, I do think that we are establishing another agency when it could very well be done within the system. I think that the reason that this bill has come to you in this final form is because it's been too much a tug-of-war for too long and the thing needs resolution and this is the way we have decided to resolve it by turning everything over to foster care. But I do believe that there was probably another way we could have done it and that probably made a lot of sense and that was maybe to turn everything over to the courts who are still going to be involved in the review process anyway and who still have to do all those reviews. And perhaps we could have turned them over to the courts, made Foster Care Review Board responsible for helping the courts do those reviews, but it seems to me that the train was on a very fast track and there were a lot of people stoking the fire and the train was going faster and faster and there just didn't seem to be any way to slow it down. And I think we've maybe missed an opportunity here to do things a different way, but I hope I'm wrong. I hope that what we've done here isn't establish an independent agency which is going